

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring performance information and providing notification when the performance information indicates performance reaching a predetermined level, the method comprising the steps of:

a program administrator setting performance criteria in a system;
the system accepting a plurality of forms from a plurality of sites, each of the forms including performance information as a function of uniform data definitions;

the system storing the performance information in a database as a function of an area of interest of the performance information;

the system monitoring the performance information for conformance with the performance criteria as it is stored and flagging the performance information that does not conform with the performance criteria so that a report can be generated, either automatically or manually, as a function of at least a portion of the currently stored performance information;

the system providing notification when the performance information deviates from the performance criteria.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring the currently stored performance information of a specific set of sites for conformance with site-specific performance criteria.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the set of sites is a single site and the site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for the single site.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the set of sites comprises multiple sites and the site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for the multiple

sites.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the set of sites comprises all sites and the site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for the all sites.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing notification further comprises sending notification via one or more of :

e-mail;
telephone;
facsimile;
pager; and,
postal mail.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing notification further comprises providing notification to an environmental professional.

8 The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

modifying performance criteria;
reviewing data in the database for nonconformance with the modified performance criteria;
providing notification of nonconformance with the modified performance criteria.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the areas of interest include one or more of:

air;
water;
waste;

energy;
toxic chemical release inventory;
containment;
regulatory activity;
cost and savings;
facility general information;
database meta information;
health and safety information; and,
materials use and conservation information.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the particular database is an Air Programs Database and the performance criteria is a high limit on emissions level.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the particular database is a Waste Management Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on recycling quantities and percentage rates of nonhazardous and hazardous waste.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the particular database is an Energy Database and the performance criteria is a high limit on energy consumption.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein the particular database is a Cost and Savings Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on cost to savings ratio to ensure that economic efficiency does not fall below a predetermined level.
14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating a summary report at a pre-established review period, the report comprising a comparison of the performance information to the pre-established performance criteria in the system.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of assigning a specific access level to a user, the access level further comprising:

reader;

author; and,

editor;

wherein the reader is limited to viewing documents, the author can view documents, create documents, and modify documents created by the author, and the editor can read, create and modify all documents.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of automatically creating an audit trail to the forms, the audit trail comprising:

a name of an author;

a creation date;

a name of a modifying user; and,

a date of modification.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of creating queries to summarize data and produce useful management information.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the creating step further comprises sorting by a specific chemical to study a chemical's use rate and disposition across an operation.

19. A system for monitoring performance information comprising:

a processor;

a data storage device operably connected to the processor, the data storage device further comprising a number of individual storage units for storing a

predetermined type of data;

a program executable by the processor to:

accept a plurality of forms from a plurality of sites, each of the forms including performance information as a function of uniform data definitions;

store the performance information in a database as a function of an area of interest of the performance information;

monitor the performance information as it is stored for conformance against pre-established performance criteria set by a program administrator and flag the performance information that does not conform with the performance criteria so that a report can be generated, either automatically or manually, as a function of at least a portion of the currently stored performance information in the plurality of databases;

provide notification when the performance information deviates from the performance criteria.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the program is further executable to monitor the currently stored performance information of a specific set of sites for conformance with site-specific performance criteria.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the set of sites comprises a single site and the site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for the single site.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the set of sites comprises multiple sites and the site-specific criteria comprises the performance criteria for the multiple sites.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein the set of sites comprises all sites and the

site-specific criteria comprises the performance criteria for the all sites.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein the program is further executable to send notification via one or more of :

- e-mail;
- telephone;
- facsimile;
- pager; and,
- postal mail.

25. The system of claim 19 wherein the program is further executable to provide notification to an environmental professional.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein the program is further executable to:

- modify performance criteria;
- review data in the database for nonconformance with the modified performance criteria;
- provide notification of nonconformance with the modified performance criteria.

28. The system of claim 19 wherein the areas of interest include one or more of:

- air;
- water;
- waste;
- energy;
- toxic chemical release inventory;
- containment;

regulatory activity;
cost and savings;
facility general information;
database meta information;
health and safety information; and,
materials use and conservation information.

29. The system of claim 19 wherein the particular database is an Air Programs Database and the performance criteria is a high limit on emissions level.
30. The system of claim 19 wherein the particular database is a Waste Management Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on recycling quantities and percentage rates of nonhazardous and hazardous waste.
31. The system of claim 19 wherein the particular database is an Energy Database and the performance criteria is a high limit on energy consumption.
32. The system of claim 19 wherein the particular database is a Cost and Savings Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on cost to savings ratio to ensure that economic efficiency does not fall below a predetermined level.
33. The system of claim 19 further comprising the step of generating a summary report at a pre-established review period, the report comprising a comparison of the performance information to the pre-established performance criteria set by the program administrator in the system.
34. The system of claim 19 further comprising a number of specific access levels for a

user, the access levels further comprising:

reader;

author; and,

editor;

wherein the reader is limited to viewing documents, the author can view documents, create documents, and modify documents created by the author, and the editor can read, create and modify all documents.

35. The system of claim 19 further comprising an automatically created audit trail for the forms, the audit trail comprising:

a name of an author;

a creation date;

a name of a modifying user; and,

a date of modification.

36. The system of claim 19 further comprising queries to summarize data and produce useful management information.

37. The system of claim 19 wherein the queries further comprise sorting by a specific chemical to study a chemical's use rate and disposition across an operation.

38. Computer executable process steps operative to control a computer, stored on a computer readable medium, for monitoring performance information comprising the steps of:

accepting a plurality of forms from a plurality of sites, each of the forms including performance information as a function of uniform data definitions;
storing the performance information in a database as a function of an area

of interest of the performance information;

monitoring the performance information as it is stored for conformance against pre-established performance criteria set by a program administrator and flagging the performance information that does not conform with the performance criteria so that a report can be generated, either automatically or manually, as a function of at least a portion of the currently stored performance information in the plurality of databases;

providing notification when the performance information deviates from the performance criteria.

39. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising monitoring the currently stored performance information of a specific set of sites for conformance with site-specific performance criteria.

40. The computer executable process steps of claim 39 wherein the set of sites is a single site and the site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for the single site.

41. The computer executable process steps of claim 39 wherein the set of sites comprises multiple sites and the site-specific performance criteria comprises the performance criteria for the multiple sites.

42. The computer executable process steps of claim 39 wherein the set of sites comprises all sites and the site-specific criteria comprises the performance criteria for the all sites.

43. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the step of providing

notification further comprises sending notification via one or more of :

- e-mail;
- telephone;
- facsimile;
- pager; and,
- postal mail.

44. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the step of providing notification further comprises providing notification to an environmental professional.

45. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising the steps of:

- modifying performance criteria;
- reviewing data in the one or more databases for nonconformance with the modified performance criteria;
- providing notification of nonconformance with the modified performance criteria.

46. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the areas of interest include one or more of:

- air;
- water;
- waste;
- energy;
- toxic chemical release inventory;
- containment;
- regulatory activity;

cost and savings;
facility general information;
database meta information;
health and safety information; and,
materials use and conservation information.

47. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the particular database is an Air Programs Database and the performance criteria is a high limit on emissions level.

48. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the particular database is a Waste Management Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on recycling quantities and percentage rates of nonhazardous and hazardous waste.

49. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the particular database is an Energy Database and the performance criteria is a high limit on energy consumption.

50. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the particular database is a Cost and Savings Database and the performance criteria is a low limit on cost to savings ratio to ensure that economic efficiency does not fall below a predetermined level.

51. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising the step of generating a summary report at a pre-established review period, the report comprising a comparison of the performance information to the pre-established performance criteria set by the program administrator.

52. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising the step of assigning a specific access level to a user, the access level further comprising:

reader;

author; and,

editor;

wherein the reader is limited to viewing documents, the author can view documents, create documents, and modify documents created by the author, and the editor can read, create and modify all documents.

53. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising the step of automatically creating an audit trail to the forms, the audit trail comprising:

a name of an author;

a creation date;

a name of a modifying user; and,

a date of modification.

54. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 further comprising the step of creating queries to summarize data and produce useful management information.

55. The computer executable process steps of claim 38 wherein the creating step further comprises sorting by a specific chemical to study a chemical's use rate and disposition across an operation.